

Message Text

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14

ACTION IO-13

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CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

L-03 DODE-00 SS-14 NSC-10 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR: OCON: ECAFE

SUBJECT: RED: ECAFE: 29 TH SESSION- COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM SIX

1. ANNOTATED AGENDA ON ITEM SIX REACHES OUT TO DISCUSS MATTERS BELONGING TO OTHER AGENDA ITEMS, SUCH AS TRADE AND MONETARY COOPERATION PROGRAM (ITEM NINE) AND PLAN HARMONIZATION AMONG MEKONG RIPARIAN COUNTRIES AND INDOCHINA RECONSTRUCTION (ITEMS FOUR AND THIRTEEN). WE ARE COMMENTING ON THESE UNDER CITED ITEMS NUMBERS AND RECOMMEND THAT USDEL ALSO COMMENT UNDER THOSE HEADINGS, RATHER THAN UNDER ITEM SIX. LATTER HAS ENOUGH SUBSTANCE OF ITS OWN.

2. RE PEPPER COMMUNITY (PC), DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT THIS IS PRODUCERS GROUP ONLY AND HAS ADOPTED A SECRETIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD CONSUMER COUNTRIES. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NO PLACE IN UN STRUCTURE FOR CLOSED FORUMS WITH ONE- SIDED OUTLOOK AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT PC INTENDS TO BECOME AUTONOMOUS,

SELF- FINANCED ORGANIZATION LIKE COCONUT COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, PROGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION SEEMS SLOW AND PC IS STILL MAKING
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DEMANDS ON ECAFE FINANCIAL AND MAN- POWER RESOURCES. LATEST DOCUMENTATION (E/ CN.11/L.359) INDICATES PC HAS PROGRAM SIMILAR TO COCONUT COMMUNITY, WHICH GENERALLY SEEMS UNOBJECTIONABLE UNLESS FOR DECISION TO TAKE COMMON STAND IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS ORGANIZED BY ECAFE, UNCTAD AND GATT UNQUOTE.

3. RICE FUND AGREEMENT. IN A MEETING IN BANGKOK MARCH 12-16 NINE ECAFE COUNTRIES CONSIDERED PROPOSAL FOR SETTING UP A \$50 MILLION ASIAN RICE TRADE FUND. REPS OF FOUR COUNTRIES - KHMER REPUBLIC, PHILIPPINES, SRI LANKA AND THAILAND INITIALLED A DRAFT AGREEMENT, ACCESSION TO WHICH WOULD BE OPEN ONLY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF ECAFE. ALTHOUGH REPORT OF MEETING HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO

NON- PARTICIPANTS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT FUNCTION OF FUND WOULD BE TO FINANCE RICE SALES BETWEEN MEMBERS ON FIVE- YEAR INSTALLMENT TERMS, WHICH POSSIBILITY OF EXTENSION, IN ORDER TO LESSEN DEPENDENCE OF RICE DEFICIT COUNTRIES ON SUPPLIES FROM OUTSIDE ECAFE REGION AND PERMIT SURPLUS COUNTRIES TO MEET COMPETITION FROM SUPPLIERS OUTSIDE REGION OFFERING CONCESSIONAL TERMS. PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES EXPECT TO OBTAIN NECESSARY RESOURCES FOR FUND FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

4. IT IS HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE, IN OUR VIEW, WHETHER PROPOSED RICE TRADE FUND REPRESENTS OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF \$50 MILLION IF SUCH A SUM WERE TO BECOME AVAILABLE. ASIDE FROM CONSIDERABLE LACK OF REALISM IN SCHEME, THIS PROJECT ALSO RAISES QUESTION OF USE OF ECAFE FUNDS FOR ONE- SIDED APPROACH TO PROBLEMS, EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS FROM DELIBERATIONS, WITHHOLDING OF ECAFE DOCUMENTS AND ADOPTION OF RESTRICTIVE POLICIES. PARTICIPANTS NEVERTHELESS SUGGESTED THAT EXPENSES AND STAFF REQUIRED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE FUND BE SECURED FROM U. N. OR OTHER SOURCES WITHOUT COST TO FUND.

5. ANNOTATED AGENDA, PAGE SEVEN, INDICATES THAT EXPERT GROUP ON PROGRESS EVALUATION HAS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF DOMESTIC EFFORTS FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION. BELIEVE THIS LINE OF THINKING SHOULD BE GIVEN STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT AND THAT 1973 SURVEY SHOULD PERHAPS DEAL WITH FINANCIAL AND TAXATION POLICIES, RATHER THAN EDUCATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT ABOUT WHICH LITTLE CAN BE DONE WITHOUT BETTER DOMESTIC RESOURCES MOBILIZATION.

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